

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PGOV, SHUM, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: NICOSIA 302

1. CYPRUS AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALLED ON DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ FEBRUARY 3 TO EXPRESS GOC'S "DEEP CONCERN" OVER CYPRUS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT. ANGELIDESOF CYPRUS EMBASSY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES DERIAN (HA) AND VEST (EUR) WERE PRESENT FOR MEETING.

2. DIMITRIOU READ OUT AND HANDED OVER LENGTHY NOTE VERBALE (TEXT BY SEPTTEL) WHICH MADE ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS AS FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES HAD TO AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD
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ON FEBRUARY 1 (REFTTEL). IN REPLY, NIMETZ POINTED OUT THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS HAD BEEN REQUIRED BY CONGRESS AND THAT NONE HAD BEEN EASY TO PREPARE. GIVEN THE UNIQUE SITUATION THAT EXISTED ON THE ISLAND THE CYPRUS REPORT HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT; MANY HOURS HAD IN FACT BEEN SPENT ON ITS PREPARATION. NIMETZ SAID THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THE

SPECIFIC POINTS THAT THE NOTE VERBALE RAISED.

3. DERIAN SAID THAT THE CYPRIOTS APPEARED TO BE REGARDING THE CYPRUS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT AS AN IN-DEPTH EXHAUSTIVE STUDY WHEN IN FACT IT WAS NO MORE THAN A BRIEF STATEMENT OF

OUR PERCEPTION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION--IN EFFECT A SNAPSHOT RATHER THAN A FINE OIL PAINTING. WE HAD ATTEMPTED SIMPLY TO PRESENT THE FACTS WITHOUT ASSIGNING BLAME OR MAKING JUDGMENTS. DERIAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS INDEED AWKWARD FOR ANY GOVERNMENT TO ASSESS THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ANOTHER. VEST ADDED THAT THE GOC SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE BASIC FACT THAT THE U.S. WAS AND HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN A SINCERE EFFORT TO HELP MOVE TOWARDS A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND THAT WE ALWAYS STOOD READY TO ASSIST. NIMETZ STRESSED ONCE AGAIN THAT OUR INTENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT HAD NOT BEEN TO ADDRESS ALL FACETS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, POLITICAL AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN, BUT RATHER TO FOCUS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION OF THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT.

4. DIMITRIOU SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE REPORT WAS PREPARED, BUT THAT, NEVERTHELESS THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN PRESENTED THE GOC IN A BAD LIGHT AND IN CERTAIN RESPECTS EQUATED IT WITH THE TURKISH TRANSGRESSOR. WHAT WAS APPARENTLY AN ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE EVEN-HANDEDNESS HAD IN FACT PRODUCED DISTORTION, SUCH THAT

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THE UNINITIATED READER WOULD HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOC AND THE GOT WERE EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. DIMITRIOU UNDERScoreD THE EXTREME CYPRIOT SENSITIVITY ON THIS QUESTION AND HOW IT WAS REPORTED; MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING HAD BEEN CAUSED BY THE TURKISH INTERVENTION AND STILL CONTINUED TO EXIST. AS HE HAD MENTIONED TO THE SECRETARY ON FEBRUARY 1, THE U.S. SHOULD NOT OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT CYPRUS WAS NOT SIMPLY ANOTHER POLITICAL PROBLEM BUT WAS IN FACT A HUMAN TRAGEDY OF ENORMOUS DIMENSIONS. DIMITRIOU SAID HE WAS WORRIED THAT THIS REPORT MIGHT DAMAGE SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. IN CYPRUS AT A TIME WHEN THE GOC WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE U.S. BACKING FOR U.N. EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT.

5. NIMETZ SAID HE BELIEVED WE WERE DEALING ESSENTIALLY WITH A PRESENTATIONAL PROBLEM. THERE WERE MANY FACTS CONCERNING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, WELL-KNOWN TO US, THAT SIMPLY LAY OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THIS REPORT. MOREOVER, CYPRUS DID NOT FIT NEATLY INTO THE FORMAT ESTABLISHED FOR THESE REPORTS. SINCE THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ALSO RECEIVED U.S. ASSISTANCE, WE WERE OBLIGED TO DESCRIBE THE HUMAN RIGHTS

CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED IN TURKISH CYPRUS AND REFER TO THE DE FACTO TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION. DERIAN NOTED AGAIN THAT, OVERALL, THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS SOUGHT TO GIVE NO MORE THAN A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION. THERE WAS NO INTENT TO ADJUDICATE, NOR TO PRE-EMPT THE ROLES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OR THE COUNCIL OF

EUROPE, NOR INDEED TO LET ANYONE OFF THE HOOK.

6. DIMITRIOU NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN SHOCKED BY THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE TURKISH HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT WHICH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CYPRUS REPORT, SEEMED TO BETOKEN A CONCERTED EFFORT TO ABSOLVE TURKEY OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY. IN HIS VIEW, MOREOVER, MUCH OF THE CYPRUS REPORT WOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ON TURKEY. CONFIDENTIAL

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NIMETZ SAID THAT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE TURKISH REPORT HAD BEEN DRAFTED NOT TO ABSOLVE ANYONE OF THE BLAME. OMITTING ANY MENTION OF CYPRUS WOULD CLEARLY HAVE MADE FOR AN INCOMPLETE REPORT ON TURKEY. NIMETZ STRESSED ONCE AGAIN THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF THE U.S. SETTING ITSELF UP AS A JUDGE. WE HAD DECIDED TO WRITE THESE CONGRESSIONALLY REQUIRED REPORTS IN A LOW-KEY FACTUAL MANNER SUCH THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO PRONOUNCE RESPONSIBILITY OR MAKE ULTIMATE MORAL JUDGMENTS.

7. COMMENT: AS THE ABOVE ACCOUNT MAY INDICATE, THE MEETING WAS DIFFICULT AND EMOTIONAL AS FAR AS THE TWO CYPRIOTS WERE CONCERNED. WE PLAN TO STUDY THE NOTE VERBALE FURTHER OVER THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, AND MAY RESPOND IN GENERAL TERMS. EMBASSY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE WELCOME. VANCE

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